

"Thank you for the invitation to join you this Memorial Day to honor those who have given their lives for our country.

"On Memorial Day it is appropriate to recall that every generation of Americans, in its own unique time, has faced challenges that have tested the resolve of the American people.

"Those aptly-named "The Greatest Generation" defeated tyranny in Europe and Asia, in truth a bold and heroic feat.

"For their sacrifices, that group of heroes has finally been given a fitting national monument in Washington, D.C.

"Today we face a changed world and a much different set of circumstances from the challenges of the past.

"America's enemies today are harder to understand. They're harder to find; harder to contain; harder to defeat.

"The way war is waged has also changed. The International Terrorism threat is more constant, more insidious.

"And so on this Memorial Day and future Memorial Days we should also remember civilian casualties and the impact of war on the home front.

"These modern crises are daunting, yet we should remember that many of our old adversaries from World War II are still with us.

"Thus, those who gave their lives in past conflicts not only secured America, but they also produced a more secure world for us today.

"The next generations of Americans - the children among us today - will undoubtedly face challenges of their own.

"One thing that will never change, though, is the pain that the loss of a loved one inflicts on a wife, a child, a parent.

"So to all those who have placed a gold star in their window in remembrance of a fallen soldier, I re-